

in southern California, this is the only place to go to play in the snow or hear the wind whispering through the pines.

The supervisor of this forest spends as much time dealing with urban issues as many mayors. He must deal with water quality, roads, development and emergency services as often as he deals with tree health and animal habitat protection. Gene Zimmerman has become the most familiar face in the San Bernardino Mountains in this role over the past 15 years.

It has been my pleasure to work with Gene on developing services for visitors—the Big Bear Discovery Center is one of the most heavily used visitor centers in any forest in the Nation. The San Bernardino National Forest Association, which Gene organized to help raise funds for visitor services, has become a unifying force throughout the mountain communities.

The need to forge a unified approach between the forest and the surrounding communities became deadly serious in recent years, when drought and an infestation of pine bark beetles left millions of trees dead and just waiting for a spark to become a terrible disaster. Gene rose to this challenge, as well, organizing the Mountain Area Safety Task Force. These Federal, State and local officials developed a plan to evacuate nearly 50,000 people, and when the inferno of the Old Fire struck in 2003, not a single life was lost to the fire even though nearly 1,000 homes burned.

My work with Gene has continued in the past 3 years as we have sought ways to reduce the fire danger and restore the forest. It is my hope that this can be accomplished with the help of the recovery plan Gene has set in place. He will now hand off the implementation of that plan, as he has decided to retire at the beginning of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the mountain residents in my district owe a debt of gratitude for the dedication shown by Supervisor Gene Zimmerman. I would ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Gene for his four decades of public service and in wishing the best to Gene and his wife Anne in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERALD AND
JULIA GEIER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay special recognition to Gerald and Julia Geier, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary tomorrow, December 17, 2005. In fact, they intend to renew their vows at a celebration being held at Saks Baptist Church in my hometown of Anniston, AL.

I attend church with this fine couple. It is wonderful to see two people who still care so much about each other after all these years. Their commitment is an inspiration to everyone who knows them.

I salute Gerald and Julia Geier on their 50th anniversary and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

RECOGNITION OF LORETTA E.
REARDON'S SERVICE TO FORT
MONMOUTH ARMY GARRISON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute and express my deeply felt gratitude to the service of Loretta E. Reardon, who serves as the staff advisor and special projects officer/coordinator for the Deputy to the Commanding General at Fort Monmouth Army Garrison in Eatontown, NJ.

Ms. Reardon has proudly served our government for nearly twenty-seven years. Throughout her career she has shown a total dedication to her mission. Ms. Reardon has been a mentor to employees and has always been an energetic team player.

She has selflessly served Fort Monmouth as liaison to industry organizations on issues involving the command as well as Congressional offices on all federal matters.

She has always quickly responded to special inquiries generated by my staff, and my colleagues in the New Jersey Congressional Delegation, and myself on a myriad of issues pertaining to Fort Monmouth such as Appropriation and BRAC issues.

She was the eyes and ears for the command through multiple rounds of Base Realignment and Closures. She has been a steady and guiding force keeping Victor J. Ferlise, the Deputy to the Commanding General U.S. Army Communications—Electronics Command, on the right track for a number of years.

In closing, her retirement marks a new chapter in her life. It also represents the loss of a member of the Fort Monmouth family. It will be impossible to replace her work ethic, her exceptional standards, her unparalleled skill, and her ability to make everyone she touched feel special.

I want to thank Loretta E. Reardon for all she has done for Fort Monmouth, for the State of New Jersey, and for our country.

I ask my colleagues to recognize the tremendous contribution that Loretta E. Reardon has made throughout her impressive twenty-seven year career.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4560, THE
"CLEAN WATER TRUST ACT OF
2005"

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the "Clean Water Trust Fund Act of 2005."

We are all well aware that our national water infrastructure is aging, deteriorating, and in need of repair and replacement. The American Society of Civil Engineers recently graded the condition of the infrastructure throughout our country. Wastewater infrastructure received a "D-." Nearly half of the sewer pipes in American cities are over 50 years old. Some are over 100 years old. Treatment plants built in the 1970s need to be upgraded.

New mandates to manage municipal stormwater runoff have gone into effect. And water quality must be improved.

As a nation, we are not investing enough in our wastewater treatment infrastructure to ensure that we will continue to keep our waters clean. Unless we act, we could lose the significant gains in water quality that have been achieved over the last 30 years.

The Congressional Budget Office, EPA, and the Water Infrastructure Network have estimated that it could take over \$400 billion to address our Nation's clean water infrastructure needs over the next 20 years, twice the current level of investment by all levels of government. We can help reduce the overall cost of water infrastructure with good asset management. Innovative technologies, increased water efficiency, and regional approaches to water pollution problems also will help reduce costs. But, these things alone will not close the large funding "gap" that now exists between water infrastructure needs and current levels of spending. Increased investment also must take place.

A recent survey by the Luntz Research Companies found that most Americans believe clean and safe water is a national priority, and are willing to pay more to get it. The survey also found that most Americans want a sustainable, dedicated source of funding for water infrastructure projects, and would support the creation of a sustainable trust fund for wastewater infrastructure.

The "Clean Water Trust Act of 2005" addresses these issues by:

Establishing a Clean Water Trust Fund to provide an assured source of funding to help the nation meet its water infrastructure needs.

Authorizing over \$37 billion over five years from the Clean Water Trust Fund for increased investment in critical water infrastructure, improvements in technology and infrastructure management, addressing water quality issues in critical regional waters, and improving and protecting wetlands and fisheries uses.

Encouraging innovative and alternative approaches to solving water quality problems and financing infrastructure improvements;

Encouraging appropriate management of infrastructure assets, including planning for the payment of the costs of repair and replacement; and

Increasing support for rural and small communities through technical and funding assistance.

In crafting this bill we have looked at the national goal of improving water quality, establishing an assured source of funding to help the nation meet its water infrastructure needs, and the responsibilities of local communities to provide municipal services and maintain their local wastewater systems.

The "Clean Water Trust Act of 2005" embraces innovative solutions for these interests and I urge Members to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSEPH E.
LOWERY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Joseph E.